

SENATE BILL NO. 549

BY SENATOR HEWITT

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 32:1(35.1) and 299.5 and R.S. 47:451(20.1) and 471, relative to motor vehicles; to provide with respect to military surplus motor vehicles; to provide with respect to the registration and operation of a military surplus motor vehicle; to provide for the creation of a special license plate for a military surplus motor vehicle; to provide for the operation of a military surplus motor vehicle under certain conditions; to provide for rules; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:1(35.1) and 299.5 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1. Definitions

When used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

* * *

(35.1) "Military surplus motor vehicle" means a wheeled, multipurpose or tactical motor vehicle manufactured for, and sold directly to, the Armed Forces of the United States in conformity with contractual specifications and subsequently authorized for sale to civilians. "Military surplus motor vehicle" does not include mobile construction equipment, trailers, or semitrailers.

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§299.5. Military surplus motor vehicles; operation; safety equipment; registration

A. A military surplus motor vehicle operated upon any highway of this state shall be equipped with the minimum motor vehicle equipment appropriate for motor vehicle safety, including headlamps, front and rear turn signal lamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, an exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the

1 vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the
2 vehicle or an interior mirror, a parking brake, an adequate windshield, a
3 windshield wiper, a speedometer, an odometer, braking for each wheel, a seat
4 belt assembly installed at each designated seating position, tire equipment as
5 required by R.S. 32:362, and a vehicle identification or serial number.

6 B. Any military surplus motor vehicle operated upon any highway of this
7 state shall be registered with the state of Louisiana through the Department of
8 Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, office of motor vehicles,
9 as a limited use vehicle and shall display a special license plate issued by the
10 office of motor vehicles.

11 C. A person operating a military surplus motor vehicle shall be at least
12 twenty-one years of age and possess a valid driver's license.

13 D. Any military surplus motor vehicle operated upon a highway of this
14 state shall have liability insurance with the same minimum limits as required
15 by the provisions of R.S. 32:900(B).

16 E. The number of persons permitted to travel in a military surplus motor
17 vehicle is limited to the number of available safety belts.

18 F. Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed to prevent the
19 Department of Transportation and Development, or any parish or municipal
20 government from prohibiting the operation of any military surplus motor
21 vehicle on any state highway, parish road, or municipal street under its
22 jurisdiction if the Department of Transportation and Development, parish or
23 municipal government determines that the prohibition is necessary for the
24 safety of the motoring public.

25 G. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety
26 services, shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the
27 Administrative Procedure Act, subject to oversight by the house and senate
28 committees on transportation, highways and public works, as necessary to
29 implement the provisions of this Section. The rules and regulations shall become
30 effective not later than January 20, 2019.

1 Section 2. R.S. 47:451(20.1) and 471 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §451. Definitions and terms

3 The following words and phrases, when used in this Chapter, shall, for the
4 purpose of this Chapter, have the meaning respectively ascribed to them in this
5 Section, except in those instances where the context clearly discloses and indicates
6 a different meaning.

7 * * *

8 **(20.1) "Military surplus motor vehicle" means a wheeled, multipurpose**
9 **or tactical motor vehicle manufactured for, and sold directly to, the Armed**
10 **Forces of the United States in conformity with contractual specifications and**
11 **subsequently authorized for sale to civilians. "Military surplus motor vehicle"**
12 **does not include mobile construction equipment, trailers, or semitrailers.**

13 * * *

14 **§471. Military surplus motor vehicles; special license plate**

15 **A. The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and**
16 **Corrections, public safety services, shall establish a special motor vehicle license**
17 **plate for military surplus motor vehicles.**

18 **B. On receipt of an application the commissioner may issue a registration**
19 **certificate and appropriately designed license plate to an owner of a military**
20 **surplus motor vehicle. The owner of a military surplus motor vehicle applying**
21 **for registration pursuant to this Section shall submit to the department, in the**
22 **manner prescribed by the department, certification that the vehicle is capable**
23 **of being safely operated on the highways of this state. The military surplus**
24 **motor vehicle license plate shall be issued to a resident of Louisiana in the same**
25 **manner as any other motor vehicle license plate.**

26 **C. The department shall collect the standard motor vehicle license tax**
27 **imposed by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana, based upon**
28 **the make and model of the military surplus motor vehicle.**

29 **D. The department shall suspend the registration of any vehicle**
30 **registered under this Section that the department determines is not properly**

1 equipped or is otherwise unsafe to operate.

2 E. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety
3 services, shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the
4 Administrative Procedure Act, subject to oversight by the house and senate
5 committees on transportation, highways and public works, as necessary to
6 implement the provisions of this Section. The rules and regulations shall become
7 effective not later than January 20, 2019.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____